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BOOK REVIEWS.

La France et ses Colonies (Géographie et Statistique). Par E. LEVASSEUR, Membre de l' Institut, Professeur, etc., 3 vols. Paris : Librairie Charles Delagrave, 15 Rue Sufflot. 1890-93. 3 vols. 8vo., pp. xiv + 556, 690, 512.

THE appearance of the third volume brings this work—the most complete presentation yet published of the geography of France—to its completion.

As early as 1867, in connection with his volume entitled *La France avec ses colonies*, M. Levasseur indicated the extended significance he thought should, for purposes of instruction, be attached to geography; under the name of that science the pupil should be given an exact knowledge of a country, of its natural configuration, of its natural riches, of its political divisions and the causes of the same, and of the industrial riches created by the labors of its people. In 1871, at the request of M. J. Simon, Minister of Public Instruction, M. Levasseur, in conjunction with M. Himly, set about the preparation of several programmes of geographical instruction, which were adopted by the Supreme Council of Public Instruction in 1874. These programmes were again revised in 1882. The original work, *La France avec ses colonies* had meantime undergone so many enlargements that the scope had exceeded the limits proper to a mere manual for secondary educational purposes. M. Levasseur therefore resolved to meet the wants of pupils by a *Précis de géographie physique, politique et économique de la France et ses colonies*, and at the same time to give to the world at large the matter that had accumulated in his hands in a larger work—the one we have before us.

The first volume contains five books: two on physical geography—on Soil and on Climate; three on political geography—on History and Politics, Population, and Administration. The second volume also contains five books: three on Agriculture and Fisheries, Industry, Transportation and Commerce; one whole book—owing to the importance of the subject in the case of France—on Paris; and one

—a general book—on Provinces and Towns, enumerating the principal economic facts and important localities. The third and last volume is divided into four parts; one on Colonial Development and History in General, one on Algiers and Tunis, one on the Colonies and Protectorates, and a fourth—a Résumé on the Colonies. There are also appendices of principal corrections and additions, indexes of charts and topics, lists of collaborators and authorities.

It will be seen that the work is a complete *répertoire* for the economist—of facts national, political, historical, industrial and statistical. A special and most admirable feature of it is its charts, presenting at a glance all the variations of all important facts. The whole is a complete economic history of France, figured, precise, graphic and readable. It is impossible to imagine anything more complete or more convenient, or more scientific or modern.

The motive which led M. Levasseur to undertake his work was the desire, as he simply and nobly says, to make his country understood. He hopes that the French citizen who reads his work will become convinced that he is the citizen of a country—great in spite of its misfortunes—which has a powerful organization and powerful resources, and whose future depends less on nature, which is still generous to France, than on a good social order, on the industry of the inhabitants and on the wisdom of the government.

Recognizing the necessity of the reader's having always before his eyes a map of France, M. Levasseur has published a *Petit atlas de la France (avec l'Algérie et les colonies) géographique et statistique*, and also a *Grand Atlas* of general physical and political geography.

WILLIAM CALDWELL.

An Analysis of the Ideas of Economics. By L. P. SHIRRES, B.A.
London: Longmans, Green & Co., 1893. 12mo., pp. x+250.

THIS book has the initial merit of being exactly what its title implies. The author had at one time studied simultaneously Political Economy and Jurisprudence, and had been impressed by the contrast between the lucid expositions of the analytical Jurists and those of the Economists. He concluded that the methods evolved in the older department of Social Science might be with advantage applied to the newer one. Taking Austin as his model, and the rules of Bain's Inductive Logic as his instrument, he has arrived—reflecting at intervals during the last ten years—at the definitions of leading economic ideas